

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE,
at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday, 15th February, 2022**

There was one member of the public present.

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark (Chairman)	Cllr. R. House
	Cllr. T. Carbin	Cllr. S. Sawyer
	Cllr. G. Boreham	Cllr. P. Turner
	Cllr. C. Prevett	Cllr. S. Uncles
	Cllr. R. Allan	Cllr. D. Swift

Before the meeting commenced, Mr. Edward Kirk spoke about the possible environmental effect the proposed surface of the Doric Park G3 pitch might have. The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.52 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received – and accepted - from Cllrs. Fisher and Hayes, due to ongoing Covid concerns. Apologies were also received from Cllr. Smokcum.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Grant request from the Village Hall – The Chairman and Cllrs. Turner and Sawyer, owing to their association with the Village Hall committee.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 18th January, 2022, were approved and signed.

4. CLERK'S REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS PC MEETING

Minute 8 – Precept: The Clerk had informed Wiltshire Council of the Parish Council's requirement.

Minute 8 – Removal of trees along Devizes Road: The Chairman said he and Cllr. Smokcum had not yet been able to meet up to discuss the matter.

Minute 8 – Tree Whips: The Chairman had contacted Mark Newbery to say that there was support for his idea but no PC member had the capacity or expertise to take this forward. He had asked Mr. Newbery if he knew of any people who might be willing/able to volunteer.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman said that all residents should by now have received details from Wiltshire Council concerning new collection dates for grey waste bins.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark, together with Cllr. Carbin, had attended the full Wiltshire Council meeting earlier when – as expected - the WC precept increase was agreed at 1.99%, plus 1% for adult care. He had also spoken to a senior police officer at a recent Area Board meeting about the lack of any police presence at Parish Council meetings.

7. POLICE

PCSO Jack Thomas had apologised for not being able to attend last month's meeting, but the Clerk had given him the dates of future meetings and he was hoping to meet members of the Parish Council before too long.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Approval of the Budget for 2022/23

Copies of the draft budget had been sent to all parish councillors. The Chairman and Clerk explained a few additions/alterations that had been made since last year, and the budget for 2022/2023 was unanimously approved.

Wiltshire Council Local Plan: Report on progress

Dr. Celia Beckett gave a comprehensive update on progress, and this was followed by a question and answer session to agree the next steps. Dr. Beckett was particularly keen for Hilperton to work with Staverton to create a community emergency plan, which would include flooding issues, and suggested that it would be beneficial if a Hilperton parish councillor could be part of a sub-group. It was agreed that Hilperton and Staverton should join forces, and Cllr. Carbin confirmed that Staverton Parish Council's next meeting would be on the 14th March.

Allotment Matters/Community Orchard – to confirm allotment rentals from 1/4/22

It was unanimously agreed that the rates should remain unchanged for the coming year. Cllr. House said that some plot holders were becoming increasingly unhappy with tenants who did not keep their plots tidy. Given the fact that there was a substantial waiting list, it was agreed that he should keep an eye on the situation and contact the tenants involved, reminding them of the terms of their tenancy agreements.

Works for the Parish Steward on his visit on the 10th and 14th March

As usual, the Chairman asked members to contact him if they knew of jobs that needed to be done. The April visit would be on the 7th and 11th.

Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, 2022

The Clerk confirmed that the commemorative mugs had been ordered and paid for, and they had now been delivered to the Chairman.

Cllr. Turner gave details of the many plans for the Jubilee Fete on Saturday, 4th June, including the provision of a large marquee, bouncy castles and other activities for children, music from the 50's, 60's, 70's etc., raffles and stalls. The scouts and cubs would be camping over the whole of the jubilee weekend, the bar would be open on Saturday, the concert at Buckingham Place would be shown on a big screen in the Village Hall; and generally the committee was in the process of filling the day for families to come and enjoy.

Parish Magazine – update

The second draft of the notice seeking an editor to relaunch the 'Hilperton Village Magazine' was approved, copies of which would shortly be put up on the notice boards and PC website, the Village Hall website and facebook.

Car Parking close to the Canal Bridge at Whaddon Lane

Cllr. Allan voiced his concerns about cars double-parking too close to the bridge, which he felt was becoming a hazard. He thought it might be helpful if a letter from the Parish Council could be attached to vehicle windscreens, asking drivers to park more carefully. Over time, he felt this might work. After a short discussion, this course of action was agreed, and Cllr. Allan asked to prepare a draft letter for consideration.

Grant request from the Village Hall towards the funding of Annual Grounds Maintenance and Public Liability insurance costs

The Chairman reminded members of the background to what had become an annual request for funding for the maintenance of the playing fields, plus 25% of the public liability insurance, less

the football income. In line with the grants made previously, the figures from the Village Hall accounts for the year ended 31st May, 2021, were:-

Grounds maintenance	£3,240.00
Plus 25% of public liability insurance	<u>£369.50</u>
	£3,609.50
Less football income after deducting 25% of shower and heating costs	<u>£495.00</u>
	<u>£3,114.50</u>

It was agreed that a Section 19 grant should be made in the sum of £3,114.50 (Proposed by Cllr. House. Seconded by Cllr. Carbin, seven in favour with three abstentions from Cllrs. Clark, Sawyer and Turner).

Doric Park G3 Pitch – Environmental Impact

Referring to Mr. Edward Kirk's earlier comments, the Chairman informed members that Trowbridge Town Council was planning a new pitch in Hilperton, the proposed surface of which would consist of micro-plastic rubber crumb which could be toxic. Planning permission had already been granted by Wiltshire Council, but the Chairman – in his role of Wiltshire Councillor - had written to Lance Allan to seek his assurance that whatever surface was used at the site would not be harmful in any way to either the users or residents of Hilperton. A reply had been sent to him by Hayley Bell, project leader for Doric Park. A discussion followed, and it was agreed that, notwithstanding the fact that planning permission had been given, the Parish Council should write to the town council, alerting them to its concerns, not only about the pitch surface but also the environmental aspect of the lighting.

Grit Bin for Greenhill Gardens

Cllr. Uncles had suggested the provision of a grit bin, as a resident had recently slipped and fell. He said that Wiltshire Council would supply the bin and fill it. It was generally felt that this was a good idea, and Cllr. Uncles was asked to find out the best place to position the bin. This could be discussed again at the March PC meeting.

Repairs to the Blind House door and Stone Ball on the roof

The Chairman had spoken to Mark Packer recently, who had then inspected the door. He said there was nothing he was very concerned about, and he could do any repairs necessary. The Chairman said that the stone ball on the roof had never been attached, as such, but Cllr. Boreham pointed out that when some ivy had been cut down, it was noticed that the ball was a bit unsteady. The Clerk was asked to contact James Long, stonemasons.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

PL/2021/10939: 48a Hill Street - New vehicle access including dropped kerb

It was agreed that a 'no comment' response should be made.

PL/2022/00400: the Old Rectory, Church Street

Works to trees in a conservation area – Two Ash trees showing signs of dieback, eventually causing them to degrade and potentially fall across neighbouring properties. Removal of both trees to ground level.

It was agreed that an objection should be made, unless the officer concerned had proof that the trees were dying. If they needed to be felled, the applicants should be asked to plant two new trees.

PL/2022/00720: 10 Carisbrooke Crescent – single storey rear extension

It was agreed that a 'no comment' response should be made.

PL/2022/00619: 40 Newhurst Park

Two-storey side extension with associated internal alterations and extension of existing dropped kerb to create an additional off-street parking space.

It was agreed that a ‘no comment’ response should be made.

Decisions

PL/2021/10557: 8 Cedar Close – works to trees in a conservation area

One Willow and one Ash, application to side prune both back to fence line – approval given

PL/2021/10979: 208 Devizes Road

Conversion into two dwellings with associated works – approval given

PL/2021/11942: Hilperston House, The Knap

25% reduction of Maple tree by thinning to allow more light and space – no objection.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

E-mail from Dr. C. Beckett regarding flooding issues.

11. PUBLICATIONS

a) Environment Agency – Wessex Flood Warden Newsletter, Winter, 2022.

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised since the last meeting:

Communicorp – Jubilee Mugs (including £293.96 VAT)	£1,763.76
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Id Verde – Planters and maintenance for January, 2022 (including £20.26 VAT)	£121.59
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Payments authorised this meeting:-

Clerk’s Salary for February, 2022	£520.00)	
Clerk’s Expenses	£125.00)	£645.00

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were none.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 15th March, 2022 (apologies given by Cllr. Smokcum).

The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

Signed

Date